

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110537

16

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 EA-07 PA-01 PRS-01

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P R 070228Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110537

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, CH, UK, FR

SUBJECT: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ON EUROPEAN SALES TO  
CHINA

REF: OECD PARIS 12855

1. IF SUBJECT GELB ARTICLE RAISED IN COMMITTEE BY ANY  
DELEGATION USDEL MAY NOTE THAT ARTICLE DOES NOT  
REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITION OF USG.

2. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES WE HAVE TAKEN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 110537

POSITION THAT UNDER COCOM PROCEDURES SPEY CASE SHOULD

PROPERLY HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE AND WE CONTINUE TO BE OF VIEW THAT COCOM REMAINS THE AGREED CHANNEL FOR SUCH QUESTIONS.

3. WE MADE NO APPROACHES TO JAPANESE OR KOREANS, AS REPORTED IN "LE MONDE" REPORT FROM TOKYO. JAPANESE OFFICIALS DID, HOWEVER, DISCUSS THE RECENT ARTICLE WITH US AND EXPRESSED CONCERN AT POSSIBLE IMPACT ON ATTITUDES TOWARD COCOM IN JAPAN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AS TO THE PRESENT US VIEW OF THE UK AND FRENCH SALES TO THE PRC, IN APRIL 27 NOON BRIEFING STATE SPOKESMAN PROVIDED FOLLOWING REPLY: "WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED THAT THE BRITISH AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS USE THE COCOM PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSING THESE SALES. THE US MADE ITS VIEWS KNOWN BILATERALLY TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS. THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE VIEWS ARE HELD IN CONFIDENCE BY THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED."

5. WITH RESPECT TO QUESTIONS AS TO USG ATTITUDE ON US SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PRC, DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO SECRETARY'S STATEMENT OF APRIL 14 BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE IN WHICH SECRETARY STATED: "AS THE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT YESTERDAY TO A GROUP OF EDITORS, THERE WERE NO DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER THAT EVER TOOK PLACE IN HIS PRESENCE. THERE COULD HAVE BEEN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF CONTINGENCIES THAT MIGHT ARISE OF VARIOUS KINDS OF CONFLICTS IN WHICH, OF COURSE, THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WOULD PARTICIPATE BUT I DON'T THINK THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA."

6. WE SEE NOTHING IN ARTICLE THAT WOULD BE VIOLATION OF COCOM SECRECY. IT IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY THAT ARTICLE WILL BE RAISED IN COMMITTEE. IF QUESTIONED BILATERALLY BY OTHER DELEGATES, USDEL MAY DRAW ON ABOVE. SISCO

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